



John Rattazzo

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February 18, 2006 12:21 PM

Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Federal communications commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Subject: Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service CC Docket 96-45

Dear Chairman Martin :

As someone who is concerned about increased taxes and telephone fees, I oppose your plans to change the way monies are collected for the Universal Service Fund.

You are proposing a change in the Universal Service Fund (USF) collection methodology from a "pay-for-what-you-use" system to a "monthly flat-fee." The flat-fee system would result in forced phone bill hikes for me -- and for millions of low-volume, long-distance users in the U.S. Shifting the funding burden of the USF away from high volume users -- like big businesses -- and placing the weight on low-volume users -- students, prepaid wireless users, senior citizens and low-income residential and rural consumers-- is unfair. I urge you to rethink this flat-fee plan. It is a de-facto tax increase of as much as \$707 million for 43 million of low-volume, long-distance users in the U.S.

Large corporations can afford to pay their fair share of taxes & fees, which they can use as a write off anyhow; we the public, whose interests you are sworn to protect cannot. One third of our phone bill is already taxes, fees & surcharges; isn't that enough!

Sincerely,


John Rattazzo

cc: Senator John McCain
Senator Jon Kyl
Representative J.D. Hayworth

FCC General Email Box

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